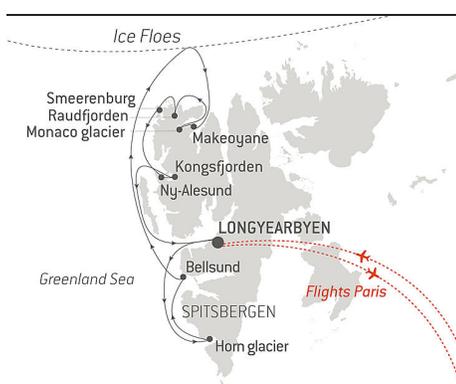


Cruising Arctic Norway: Glaciers, Ice Floes, and Polar Bears - with Smithsonian Journeys

From **14/6/2023**
to **21/6/2023**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**
to **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**



Roundtrip flights Paris/Longyearbyen/Paris +
transfers in Longyearbyen included

In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travellers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.

PONANT invites you to an exceptional experience by discovering the **Far North** and the immense open spaces of the **polar Arctic** and its ice floes that extend to the North Pole.

You will board the ship at **Longyearbyen in Norway** for an **8-day expedition cruise** to the heart of **Spitsbergen**, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago.

On this expedition aboard *L'Austral*, in the company of our specialist teams, you will discover the **exceptional flora and fauna** that lives in these extreme conditions, where temperatures reach -30°C in winter.

First of all, you will set sail south to discover **Hornsund**, one of the Spitsbergen's most beautiful fjords, which boasts an impressive glacier front, as well as **Bellsund**, whose lush valleys are sure to delight.

L'Austral will head north to reach the **Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park**, following the footsteps of the former whalers who once settled in the sites that are now home to the graves of many sailors and are frequented by various species of cetaceans.

You will then discover the world's northernmost small town, **Ny-Alesund**. This international research base and former mining city was the departure point for many expeditions to the North Pole, the first of which, in 1926, was led by Umberto Nobile and Roald Amundsen aboard the Norge airship. Finally, you will reach the sumptuous **Kongsfjorden** glaciers.

This journey will take you on the trail of **walruses**, as well as the traces of the **polar bear**, the lord of the Arctic, which you might be able to admire in its natural environment.

The next destination on your itinerary, **Svalbard archipelago** are the last islands before the North Pole and here you'll discover a unique feeling of having reached the top of the world. During this unforgettable expedition, our ship will sail to latitudes of 80° north.

Itinerary is subject to change according to port authorizations and government regulations. We are privileged guests in these remote lands where we are at the mercy of weather, ice, tidal and current conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the AECO.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Embarkation 14/6/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 14/6/2023 at 6:00 pm

Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian **Svalbard** archipelago, located on **Svalbard's** main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.

HORNSUND

Arrival 15/6/2023

Departure 15/6/2023

Nestling between **millennial glaciers** and carved mountains, and considered to be "the crown of Arctic Norway", Spitsbergen is a place that never sees the night. Your ship will take you closer to this fascinating archipelago and, more particularly, the **Hornsund fjord**. Considered to be **Svalbard's southernmost fjord**, it is especially reputed to be its most stunning: at the end of its vast bay, 8 great glaciers slowly make their way down to the sea before giving way to the many icebergs elegantly drifting along its cold and mysterious waters.

BELLSUND, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 16/6/2023

Departure 16/6/2023

You will head to the **Bellsund fjord** to follow in the footsteps of the first explorers who came from the Norwegian coast, or those of the many fur traders seeking game and trophies. Boasting an astonishingly rich wildlife, the arms of the fjord separate to form two lush valleys. Give free rein to your imagination in the heart of this majestic natural environment where time seems to stand still.

SAILING TOWARD THE ICE FLOES

Arrival 17/6/2023

Departure 17/6/2023

Your captain will sail right up to the **limit of the ice**, to the **edge of the ice floe**. Weather conditions and state of the ice allowing, you will be able to go out in a zodiac dinghy for a unique experience in the middle of these floating slabs of ice. In addition to this grandiose journey through the middle of these floes with their cut and blue-tinged edges,

sometimes over 2 metres thick, it is also often an opportunity to see a particular kind of fauna, totally dependent on the ice floe: **birds, seals** and **polar bears**.

MAKEOYANE, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 18/6/2023

Departure 18/6/2023

Måkeøyane is a small **archipelago** in the heart of the **Woodfjorden**, whose names is a reference to the large quantities of driftwood washing up on the beaches. It is located at the intersection between the Bockfjorden and the Liefdefjorden which leads to the **Monaco Glacier**, one of the most beautiful in Spitsbergen. As you sail around these little islands, you will be able to observe **Arctic terns** whose eggs sometimes attract **polar bears**.

MONACO GLACIER, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 18/6/2023

Departure 18/6/2023

Located to the North-West of the Svalbard archipelago, **the Monaco Glacier** is probably one of Spitsbergen's most beautiful and majestic. Named in honour of **Prince Albert I of Monaco**, a sailor, it stands as an impenetrable, blue-tinged jagged wall, the last glacier before reaching a latitude of 80° North. Imagine the sound of the ice cracking as it breaks free and crashes into the **transparent water**. And to make the magical landscape even more perfect, you might be lucky enough to spot **bears** and **whales**, as these two animals have a special fondness for this area.

RAUDFJORDEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 19/6/2023

Departure 19/6/2023

Raudfjorden means "**red fjord**", from the colour of the sandstone of the surrounding mountains. Along the west coast of this 20 km fjord, dissected by many shallow bays, you will be able to admire some of Spitsbergen's most **spectacular ice formations**. At the extremity of the fjord, two offshoots lead to the magnificent glaciers of Chauveaubreen and **Raudfjordbreen** which is 3 km wide. To the east, Alicehamna Beach in Bruceneset Bay has seen trappers, fishermen and explorers arrive for centuries, as evidenced by the "Raudfjordhytta" - the cabin of a Swedish trapper built in 1927.

SMEERENBURG, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 19/6/2023

Departure 19/6/2023

Located at the far north-west of the **Svalbard archipelago**, at the intersection of oceanic and Arctic influences, **Smeerenburg** is a former Dutch whaling colony on the southern part of **Amsterdam Island**. In a landscape of hills with steep slopes, plateaux, lakes and lagoons, you will anchor at a **sandy beach**. Dotted with **driftwood** and the **remains of ovens** that were used to melt the **whale** blubber, this is one of Spitsbergen's most important archaeological sites. At the height of the whaling activity, 200 men worked here and several are buried here.

NY-ALESUND, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 20/6/2023

Departure 20/6/2023

During your cruise, discover **Ny-Ålesund**, a former mining town that has been transformed into a scientific base. Founded in 1916, this small town was the departure point for many Arctic expeditions, including those of the famous explorer **Roald Amundsen**. Don't miss a visit to the museum and its famous post office, considered to be the most northerly in the world!

KONGSFJORDEN (KING BAY), SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 20/6/2023

Departure 20/6/2023

Very close to the former mining town of Ny-Ålesund, set off to discover **Kings Bay**. Your ship will sail in one of the most beautiful fjords in Svalbard: **Kongsfjorden** (the fjord of the King), a gateway to grandiose landscapes. Here, the snow-capped mountains are reflected in the water where superb **icebergs** try to outdo each other in their beauty, a delight for photographers. **Seals, reindeer**, barnacle geese and black guillemots frequent these places that have a unique atmosphere. Once you arrive at the end of the fjord, admire the **Kongsbreen** (glacier of the King) and its three characteristic rocky points, which take their names from three Scandinavian countries: Svea (Sweden), Dana (Denmark) and Nora (Norway).

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 21/6/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 21/6/2023 at 8:00 am

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